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Not Inefficient

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Security Official Defends CIA Men

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By GENE ORMSBY

American intelligence agents are not really falling all over themselves as some sources try to make it appear, Dr. William L. Langer said here Thursday. And he called "fantastic" a book which described the Central Intelligence Agency as "running off by itself."

Dr. Langer is a member of the President's 7-man intelligence advisory board. He is a retired Harvard professor of European history.

The board supervises intelligence activities of the government, including the CIA and military intelligence, the latter being "very large and very efficient."

Dr. Langer was among some 50 "captains of achievement" who are being honored here this week during the fourth annual "Salute to Excellence of the American Academy of Achievement."

He said the CIA and other intelligence groups are carefully watched over by the board. He was assistant director of the CIA for 15 months during the Korean War.

"I think our intelligence men have done a remarkable job," he declared during an interview in the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel.

He said one reason American intelligence men don't fare as well as the Communists is that the Reds can glean a lot of their intelligence from reading American newspapers.

The Communists, on the other hand, have a closed society, and



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

Dr. W. L. Langer . . .
"Our intelligence men have done a remarkable job."

Americans have to work harder to obtain information than their Red counterparts.

Asked whether Russian or American intelligence agencies are more efficient, Dr. Langer replied that because of the ease with which the Russians can obtain certain information, they are not comparable.

He called China the hardest nut to crack.

As for the Bay of Pigs fiasco, Dr. Langer explained that this happened just after a change of administration.

"Everyone tended to assume the other fellow knew what his job was but was unsure of his own. When the crisis came, it

was more than they had bargained for. And to make the operation a success, President Kennedy would have had to make a greater commitment than he did."

Even Uncle Sam makes things easy for the Russians, Dr. Langer said. For instance, the government has made available photographs of American astronauts landing at sea, he noted.

But as for the Russians, he said, "Do they do that for us?"